in each Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains on all Railways at present; and

(b) the name of the contractors/suppliers thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) As per policy guidelines, Zonal Railways are free to procure and supply reputed and popular newspapers in English, Hindi and Regional languages duly evaluating the passengers demand in the Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains on their jurisdiction. Zone-wise and train-wise details of newspaper? and their suppliers, are not maintained in Board's office.

Delay in settlement of claims of train accidents

1459. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the miserable plight of the next of kin of those killed in train disasters at Khanna in November, 1998, Sirhind in December, 2000 and bomb blast in Dhanbad in March 2002, who are still awaiting settlements of their claims; and

(b) if so, how the claims in respect of those killed in Rajdhani Express on September 9, 2002, have been settled, whereas claimants of earlier accidents from November, 1998 onwards are still to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The position of claims filed, settled and pending for death of passengers in train disasters at Khanna, Sirhind, Doraha (Dhanbad Express) and Rafiganj is as under:-

Name of Accident	Number of claims filed for death	No. of claims settled for death	No. of claims pending for death
Khanna accident	217	209	8
Sirhind accident	40	33	7
Dhanbad Express at Doraha	4	1	3
Rajdhani Express Accident, Rafiganj	99	69	30

The reasons for pendency of balance claims for Khanna, Sirhind, Doraha and Rajdhani Express Accidents are:—

(i) Non-attendance by the applicants or their counsels.

(ii) Inability of litigants to produce documents and witness on time.

Vacant posts in Nagpur Railway Division

1460. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of posts of gangmen, gatemen, loco running and traffic running staff are vacant in Nagpur Railway Division of Central Railway and it is affecting day to day work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways proposes to fill up these vacant posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies being a continuous process, a few vacancies are bound to exist at any given point of time, but it is not affecting the day to day work.

(b) There are 300 vacancies of Gangmen, 27 vacancies of Gatemen, 199 vacancies of Loco Running and 124 vacancies of Traffic Running Staff in Nagpur Division as against the sanctioned strength of 3766, 573, 1462 and 529 respectively. The sanctioned strength includes not only the bare requirement for operation, but also Rest Givers and Leave Reserves. In case of running categories, these provisions have been liberally made and they can take care of the vacancies, temporarily when there are time gaps between arising of vacancies and filling up of the same.

(c) and (d) The vacancies in these categories are proposed to be filled by various methods including direct recruitment through